

## **ARLINGTON PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINTUES**

*July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

The Town of Arlington Park and Recreation Commission came to order for its online virtual meeting via Zoom on Tuesday July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:19pm.

Commission Members: Leslie Mayer, Jen Rothenberg, Shirley Canniff, Phil Lasker, Scott Walker, and associate member, Sarah Carrier were present. Recreation Director Joe Connelly and Program Supervisor Zachary Vaillette were also in attendance.

Anticipated Speakers: N/A

Members of the Public: N/A

Preliminary Matter: Leslie Mayer, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, took formal attendance via a roll call. Ms. Mayer read a statement pertaining to Governor Baker's Public Meeting Law change due to COVID-19 regarding virtual meetings. Meeting business ground rules and procedures were also covered by Ms. Mayer.

### **Open Forum – Public Comment**

N/A

### **Correspondence Received: Crusher Lot Mountain Biking Feedback, Clair Folger – Tennis Court Times, Zachary Forest – Skateboard Park**

Mr. Connelly shared that he received a great deal of feedback regarding the proposal to build an official mountain biking park within the Crusher Lot property. During the last Commission Meeting, it was requested that all individuals looking to share their thoughts on this proposal email Mr. Connelly. Individuals in support of the proposal, as well as individuals against the proposal, reached out. All correspondence received was shared with Commission Members.

Clair Folger contacted Mr. Connelly to ask if there was a policy in place regarding a formal 9:00am start time for tennis courts located in Town. Currently, there is no formal rule regarding a specific time which tennis courts can start being used daily that would differ from a park's normal operating hours.

Mr. Connelly also stated that Zachary Forest reached out regarding his interest in potential upgrades occurring at the McClennan Skate Park.

### **Capital Project Updates**

#### *a) Lussiano Playground*

Mr. Connelly stated the Lussiano Playground is underway and that an onsite meeting recently occurred with the contractor. Don Vitters will be assisting to share thoughts and feedback as the construction takes place. Mr. Connelly stated that the recent design issue in relation to the existing sprinkler system has been resolved. An additional issue was discovered during construction. An item believed to be a drain during planning is actually a backflow prevention device. In order to resolve this, an existing bench will need to be moved to the other side of the basketball court. The path in this area will be constructed closer to the court to go around the existing backflow prevention system. The dimensions of the basketball court will not be impacted by this change.

Mr. Connelly shared that trees have been ordered from Bigelow Nursery, which will be planted later on in the project. An additional item of discussion brought up is the plan to sporadically place boulders near the path located on the North Union Street side of the playground. Currently, there are concerns that footpaths will be made between these rocks once reopened. Mr. Connelly is proposing that the Commission waits to see how users navigate the property and where footpaths are formed before moving forward with placement of the boulders. Observing this would allow them to see if the placement of boulders logistically makes sense or if there could be an alternative solution. The goal behind the planned

placement of these boulders is to help limit foot traffic down the hill on the North Union Street side of the property, in addition to serving as a play feature. The boulders are owned and would be installed by the Town. Commission Members discussed this topic. The decision was made to observe foot traffic patterns when the facility reopens before placing boulders or an alternative item. The possibility of installing posts with chains or a guardrail was also brought up.

*b) Reservoir Phase II & Pilot Path Project*

*a. Beach Access for Summer of 2020*

Mr. Connelly spoke very highly of KZLA and the manner which they have been handling the overall Reservoir Phase II Project and Public Input Sessions so far. Mr. Connelly stated they are waiting for Lexington Conservation Commission for approval on the pathway project. Commissioners then shared their personal thoughts on the current proposals for the Reservoir:

*i. Mr. Walker*

- In support of keeping the walking path on the water side of the property.
- Believes the parking lot needs to be expanded. Likes the idea of creating a drop off area which could also be used as a food truck area.
- Placing the new playground in the middle of the property would give great exposure to families that are on the beach.

*ii. Ms. Canniff*

- Believes KZLA are also doing a good job on the project so far.
- Discussed creating a bus drop off which could be used for camp groups.
- Very supportive of having the walking path located near the water and using the berm for the path.
- Believes that there is a need for additional parking.

*iii. Mr. Lasker*

- Believes the best location for playground placement is in near the parking lot.
- Likes the idea of the walking path being near water's edge. Shared concerns that if a walking path is placed on the berm, it may be visually unpleasing. Does not think the beach area should be reduced in order to create the path.
- Believes the cost to install rubber surfacing for the entire walking trail may be too expensive if this is decided on.
- (4) Fishing areas which would be located around the property were proposed in the design. Believes that this is too many and can be cut down to (1).
- Suggested using logs to replace the retaining wall.

*iv. Ms. Carrier*

- Agreed that if a trail is placed on the berm, it may look visually unpleasing as fencing may be required.
- Believes the site plan is missing shaded areas and overall flow. Determining location of shade structure/picnic pavilion should be decided in relation to the playground location, with circulation considered.
- Shared that she believes a lot of work still needs to be done in terms of planning, even though the components are there.

*v. Ms. Mayer*

- Believe that the berm should be used for the walking trail. Stated the community wants access to the path during the beach operating season as many individuals use it year round for walking.
- Stated that fence placement could be moved back in order to create (2) paths, one to access beach area and one to access berm path.
- Likes the idea of having the playground closer to the parking lot. Locating the playground in the middle of the property would shift the picnic pavilion away from the concession stand.
- Believes having a one way parking lot is best choice.

vi. Mr. Walker

- Questioned if the bathhouse renovations would need additional hookups or upgrades, as well if the number of stalls would be reduced. Mr. Connelly stated that they would not be losing any stalls. Mr. Connelly also requested separate access to the concessions building for storage. Stated that showers located on the outside of the building would be moved to the front. Shared that the next Public Input Meeting will be held on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Connelly personally likes concept 2.

c) *Rink ADA Improvements*

Mr. Connelly stated that the Rink ADA Improvements are just about complete. The Town was originally told during the design phase that the ramp did not need a handrail, as its height is under the minimum requirement. It has now been decided that a handrail will be installed on the ramp, which will occur soon.

d) *Rink Refrigeration & Snow Melt Pit*

Mr. Connelly believes that the Rink Refrigeration Project has gone very well. First ice and paint on the ice has been placed, with ice being ready for use this week. Completion of the new snowmelt pit will occur when the needed funding has been acquired.

e) *Wellington*

There are currently questions regarding the plan for the bio retention area and about the project budget. During Phase 1, a guidewire for the climbing structure was moved from its original location. A consultant shared that he believed the guidewire was installed incorrectly and is unsafe. It was stated that in order to fix this, one of the posts and the guidewire would need to be reinstalled. Commissioners questioned if this is accurate assessment of the site. Ms. Rothenberg expressed concern regarding this as the wire would be going reinstalled in an open area used for play. Commissioners also shared concerns regarding the details of the proposed wood climbing structures. Plans need to be submitted by August 6<sup>th</sup> for approval on Aug 20<sup>th</sup>. Confusion if there was approval from Commission on the plans. It was stated that this was only a vote of confidence. Ms. Rothenberg will meet with Ms. Sullivan regarding the project and believe the DPW needs to be brought in to talk about plantings and what is maintainable/not maintainable.

f) *Robbins Farm Park Outfield*

Prescription Turf Services is currently reviewing the field maintenance plan that was submitted to Recreation to provide their thoughts and feedback.

g) *FY 22 Capital and ADA Upgrade Discussion*

Information on the process for future *FY 22 Capital Projects and ADA Upgrades* has been sent to Commission Members and will be discussed in a future meeting.

**Task Group Updates**

a) *Town Wide Playground- Review of meeting of 7-23-2020*

Mr. Connelly stated the Playground Task Force is currently reviewing the assessment which was completed in 2019 and creating a list of priorities based off this information. This Task Group will be reconvening within the next few weeks.

b) *Reservoir Playground – Review of second public input session of 7-27-2020*

Please see above.

c) *Mountain Biking – Organization of Working Groups*

Mr. Connelly stated that several individuals reached out to express interest in being involved with the Mountain Biking Task Force. Mr. Connelly will be selecting a total of (7) people to make up this task force. This will include Mr. Lasker, Mr. Walker, and individuals who are both in support and against the proposed bike park in the Crusher Lot.

### **Summer Programming Updates**

Mr. Connelly stated that the first week of the Summer on Summer Street Program went very well. (40) Students between the grades K-6 attended the program last week. Participants and families were very good about following COVID-19 protocols. Week 2 of the program is occurring this week, with an additional (2) more sessions scheduled to occur.

### **Approval of Minutes – July 14, 2020**

Ms. Mayer brought up approval of meeting minutes for the Commission's Meeting on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020. This item will be tabled. The Commission will discuss the approval for the July 14<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes during the next meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Robbins Farm Bench Gifting Approval – Marie Mulvihill**

The Commission approved the application submitted by Marie Mulvihill to install a recognition plaque for an existing bench at Robbins Farm. The wording of this plaque must follow wording per PRC policy. The bench that the plaque will be placed on is located near the baseball field on the property and currently does not have a plaque. Recreation will move forward with ordering the plaque for the bench.

### **Comments and Items For Future Meetings**

The next Commission Meeting will take place on August 11<sup>th</sup> via Zoom. Discussion topics for this meeting and future meetings include:

- a) Review of Field Permitting Process - Block and Slot Scheduling
- b) Review of Businesses in Parks Field Permitting
- c) Todd Morris and the use of outdoor space for afterschool program
- d) Scavenger Hunt proposed at Spy Pond

Ms. Rothenberg motioned to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Mr. Lasker. Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved by Commissioners, 5-0.

The Arlington Park & Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes were respectfully submitted by Program Supervisor, Zachary Vaillette.